

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid coding for a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Previously presented) An isolated simian nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence at least 96 % identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein which binds nociception.

4. (Previously presented) An isolated simian Opioid receptor-like 1(ORL1) gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to claim 2.

5. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector containing the simian ORL1 gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to claim 2.

6. (Previously presented) An isolated transformant cell containing the recombinant vector according to claim 5.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of ~~one or between 2 and 6~~ fewer than 7 amino acids wherein the protein binds nociceptin.

9. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating a compound ~~Compound evaluation method~~ comprising:

a) 1) transferring a simian Opioid receptor-like 1(ORL1) gene comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotide sequence ~~listed as~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein which binds nociceptin, into a cell to prepare an isolated transformant expressing the ORL1 gene

2) contacting a test compound with the cell, and

3) detecting specific binding of the test compound to a protein obtained by expression of the gene, wherein specific binding of the test compound identifies it as an ORL1 ligand; or

b) 1) transferring a simian Opioid receptor-like 1 gene comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotide sequence ~~listed as~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein which binds nociceptin, into a cell to prepare an isolated transformant expressing the ORL1 gene,

2) contacting a test compound with the cell,

3) assaying the activity of an intracellular signal transducer produced by the contact between the cell and the test compound, and

4) comparing the activity with the activity of the intracellular signal transducer without contact with the test compound, wherein a change in activity of the transducer in the presence of the compound indicates that the compound is an agonist or an antagonist for ORL1; or

c) 1) contacting a test compound with an isolated simian protein comprising the amino acid sequence ~~listed as~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one or between 2 and 6 amino acids fewer than 7 amino acids wherein said simian protein binds nociceptin, and

2) detecting a change in binding activity of nociceptin to the protein caused by the contact between the protein and the test compound, wherein a change in binding activity in the presence of the compound indicated that the compound is an agonist or an antagonist for ORL1.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (New) An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one, or between 2 and 6 amino acids, wherein the protein binds nociceptin.

14. (New) An isolated simian Opioid receptor-like 1(ORL1) protein which binds nociceptin, wherein the protein is encoded by a nucleotide sequence at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.